

Amendments to the Claims

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1. (original) A composition comprising an antibody specific for a soluble antigen of a *C. parvum* sporozoite.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
3. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the antibody exhibits minimal crossreactivity with *C. parvum* oocyst proteins or peptides.
4. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the antibody exhibits minimal crossreactivity with other *Cryptosporidium* species.
5. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the antibody is the antibody deposited with the ATCC as CRL-12604.
6. (withdrawn) A method for the detection of *C. parvum* in a sample comprising incubating an antibody specific for a soluble antigen of a *C. parvum* sporozoite with the sample and detecting the binding of the antibody to the soluble antigen of a *C. parvum* sporozoite in the sample, wherein the detection of binding indicates the presence of *C. parvum* in the sample.
7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the sample is treated to excyst *C. parvum* oocysts to release sporozoite antigen.
8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the sample is a water sample.
9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the sample is a biological fluid.
10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the method is an immunoassay.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 having a detection sensitivity of less than 200 oocysts per milliliter.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 having a detection sensitivity of less than 100 oocysts per milliliter.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the sample has a high turbidity.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the sample is treated by a biological mechanism to cause excystation of *C. parvum* oocysts in the sample, thereby releasing sporozoites from viable oocysts in the sample.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the sample is treated by mechanical disruption, thereby releasing sporozoites from viable and non-viable oocysts in the sample.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the antibody is the antibody deposited with the ATCC as CRL-12604.

17. (new) The composition of claim 1 wherein the sporozoite is released by a biological mechanism that causes excystation of *C. parvum* oocysts in a sample, thereby releasing sporozoites from viable oocysts in the sample.

18. (new) The composition of claim 1 wherein the sporozoite is released by mechanical disruption from viable and non-viable oocysts in a sample.